



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
6000 J Street, Placer Hall
Sacramento, CA 95819

June 24, 2019

In Reply Refer To:
U.S. Geological Survey
Attention: Patricia Orlando
6000 J Street, Placer Hall
Sacramento, CA 95819

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 73767
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Transmitted by electronic mail

Re: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Tracking #
USGS-2019-00135 - Response

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter is our response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 21, 2019, in which you requested copies of the following records:

Any and all documents in the agency's possession that pertain to the WikiLeaks website or organization from January 2006 to the present date, including but not limited to emails, memos, notes, briefings, reports and other documents related to, mentioning or generated as a result of:

- Guidance and instructions for employees regarding visiting the website or otherwise reading or learning about it in the news
- Internal reactions to the website's existence and disclosures
- Damage reports regarding the website and its disclosures
- Efforts to identify, investigate and/or mitigate potential leaks to the website
- Efforts to identify, investigate and/or mitigate potential unauthorized viewing of the website or news reports analyzing it and/or its contents

After a thorough search of our files, the USGS did not locate records responsive to your request. Ms. Patricia Orlando is responsible for this denial.

We previously classified you as a representative of the news media and approved your request to waive any FOIA processing fees. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.45\(a\) and 2.48\(a\)](#).

You may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL". You must include an explanation of why you believe the USGS's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and USGS concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and USGS's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and USGS will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
Telephone: (202) 741-5770
Toll-free: 1 (877) 684-6448
Fax: (202) 741-5769
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA and Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Brian May, at the following address:

U.S. Geological Survey
FOIA Public Liaison
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Telephone: (443) 498-5521
Fax: (443) 498-5510
Email: foia@usgs.gov

If you have any questions concerning your request or our response, please contact me either by electronic mail at foia@usgs.gov, by phone at (916) 278-3008, or by mail at U.S. Geological Survey, 6000 J Street – Placer Hall, Sacramento, CA 95819.

Sincerely,

Patricia Orlando
U.S. Geological Survey